ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A flash memory system segregates overhead data from user data so that overhead data may be addressed, programmed and erased independently from user data. The non-volatile memory medium of a flash memory system is mapped into a plurality of separate and separately addressable memory blocks that are independently programmable and independently erasable, including Dedicated Overhead Blocks and Dedicated Data Blocks. The Dedicated Overhead Blocks are mapped according to a plurality of distinguishably addressable segments. User Data defined by a VLBA is stored in a Dedicated Data Block within the flash memory. Successively generated sets of Overhead Data, such as a cross reference to the physical address of the user data, flags, and Error Correction Data generated in conjunction with incoming User Data, are stored in respective segments in the Dedicated Overhead Blocks. When a Dedicated Overhead Block is designated for erasure, any current overhead segments are consolidated and moved to a new Dedicated Overhead Block., and the full or obsolete block is erased.

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